

29 January 1953

Chief, FBID

Operations Officer, FBID

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Answers to Specific Questions about FBIS [redacted]

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1. The attached information is for transmission to the DD/I and is submitted in response to specific points assigned by the DD/I at [redacted] on 10 December 1952 for investigation by the undersigned at [redacted] Bureaus. Paragraph 3 below is a summary of the questions and the findings; detailed discussion of each will be found in Tab I. Additional information from the Chief, [redacted] Bureau, FBIS, requested in this connection will be found in Tab II.

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2. This information has been held temporarily pending receipt of the survey of lateral communications and pouch facilities requested of the Chief, [redacted]. As a note from him has been received stating that although the study is nearly completed, a little more time will be needed to verify several essential details, the report is being transmitted in its present form. The communications study will be transmitted upon receipt as a supplement to this memorandum.

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3. Matters assigned for investigation:

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A. [redacted]

(1) Construction. Q - Is the quality of work done by local contractors worth the money saved by not using the District Engineer?

A - No, although best value is not obtained via the DE but from US contractors on a cost plus fixed fee basis.

Q - Does the burden of FBIS construction problems warrant assistance in the form of support from [redacted] or assignment of an administrative assistant?

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A - Support from [redacted] in the form of a construction inspector would be valuable, and appears locally feasible. Assignment of an administrative assistant is not recommended.

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(2) Relocation.

Q - How sound is the proposed plan for relocating FBIS in a joint receiving area with []

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A - There is every indication that we will not suffer technically. Although the gain in facility thru access to sharing antenna fields is overrated, there is a significant gain in security.

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(3) Recreation.

Q - What are the possibilities for using facilities in the vicinity of FBIS?

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A - A good variety of recreational facilities are available to FBIS personnel in their part of the [] but are not generally close enough in terms of travel time or accessibility to encourage the best level of FBIS participation. An integrated [] recreational facility or program seems impractical for reason of distance and travel, not to mention taboo for security reasons; also it seems too late to plan a facility at an intermediate location unless money is plentiful and security barriers are disregarded.

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Q - Is the FBIS Club building still necessary? Will the corrective construction measures be adequate?

A - The CSB is necessary for the best group morale, particularly foreign-national. We could operate without it, but from a long-range point of view it should prove a good investment in helping retain trained personnel, and in promoting the efficiency borne of high morale. Since the building performs also the function of a [] it conceivably could pay off its investment in one critical emergency. [] says the corrective measures will be adequate.

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(4) Lateral Dissemination. Q - Request the [redacted] 25X1

to prepare a survey of lateral communication and pouch facilities which could be used to improve distribution of the FBIS product throughout [redacted] 25X1
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A - Study is nearly completed and will be forthcoming at an early date.

(5) Reproduction.

Q - Investigate the possibility of administrative coordination

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[redacted]
facility and inquire of [redacted] plans to expand it. 25X1A9A

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A - The present facility is very limited and [redacted] (acting in [redacted] absence) knew of no expansion plans. Joint use of the facility at present does not appear very practical. A clearer idea of how much FBIS product needs to be disseminated by what means and in what form seems to be prerequisite to this problem.

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B. [redacted]

(1) Housing. Q - There appears to be a problem of suitable quarters among staff members, primarily the unmarried, male and female. Possibly this is due to inadequacy of grade classifications, or to a need for arranging a deal with [redacted]

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Investigate and make a recommendation for [redacted] to work out.

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A - Problem appears to have diminished with passage of time. Satisfaction is fairly general. Action has been cleared with [redacted] to solve remaining individual problem and any future which might arise.

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT MISSING PAGE(S):

Enclosures

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A.

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(NOTE: [redacted] was away from [redacted] when I visited on December 12th and 13th. [redacted] was acting.)

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1. Construction

a. When [redacted] stated that he was devoting most of his time to construction problems, he used the subject loosely, referring not only to the Club-Shelter-BOQ building but also to the housing project and the bureau relocation. Also he did not mean to imply that he alone was tied up with these matters; his chief engineer has been devoting as much or more of his time to the same sphere.

b. Although routine operational matters, personnel problems, etc. are not suffering generally from this shift of supervisory attention, there is a noticeable slow-down in the handling of the more routine matters and a tendency to dispose only of those problems which force themselves to the fore.

c. In the discussion with [redacted] on the morning of December 13th it was admitted that the burden of construction problems was detrimentally heavy; but it was also agreed that what is needed is not an administrative assistant but a construction engineer. It must be borne in mind, however, that at that time [redacted] was planning in terms of FBID building the new operations site with funds turned over by [redacted] and [redacted] was assuming this would be the case.

d. Since, in the meantime, it has been made clear that the relocation is an [redacted] responsibility for which neither FBID nor the Agency will assume administrative procurement, or similar burdens of building construction; that a special FBID technical staff will be assigned to handle the electronic installation;

[redacted] and housing projects are far enough advanced that breaking in an administrative assistant might be a drag which would offset the gain in the limited time remaining.

e. [redacted] stated that in the event a construction engineer is not sent to FBIS [redacted] will support our construction programs to the extent feasible, which will be chiefly in the form of inspection service. He feels his assistance may be limited by the

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distance factor, 14 hour travel each way (unless man can be relinquished full time); by the security problem (although he seems to feel that the cover is now more of a fiction than a reality); and by the uncertainty of his own construction program in the future (his main jobs would soon be completed, and he intimated no further construction plans were firm at that time).

f. Both offered the following comments: The use of a local contractor, because of inferior quality work, can only be justified where cost prohibits use of the DE or a US contractor on a project which is strongly needed. Use of the District Engineer averages about 50% greater cost than a local contractor. Hiring a US contractor on a cost plus fixed fee basis is also more expensive, varying according to the job in relation to costs via the DE method, but it is the recommended method because it not only guarantees the best job obtainable [] but invariably gives better value per dollar expended.

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2. Relocation

a. The move to [] occasioned by [] promises to cause no significant change in the reception capacity of the FBIS []. The proposed antenna location plan appears to make only the most minor compromises; the actual terrain is slightly at variance with the map used for this plan, but the observed discrepancies do not appear to constitute any threat to implementation of the plan.

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b. The joint location with [] does offer some advantage, chiefly from an emergency point of view, through arrangements enabling sharing of antenna facilities, but the main advantage appears to be security-wise. Problems and costs of guard, emergency power, etc. are simplified and the "sanctity" of our location becomes vastly greater as we fall in line with a general plan for [].

3. Recreation

a. In considering recreational facilities, accessibility is most important. At present one mile [] is equivalent to several miles stateside in terms of travel-time on the average. Private vehicles are becoming more numerous among our staff, but do not yet constitute a completely satisfactory alternative to the rather unreliable, uncomfortable and sparse "bus" service run by []. Although great progress has been made in the past few years in travel-ability of [] the next two or three years will probably show greater improvement, stimulating broader

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recreational activity.

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Three hours per round-trip is prohibitive in most cases. Furthermore the telephone service between them is normally so poor that neither feels eager to rupture his lungs shouting across the miles except on the most important business.

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c. A survey of recreation presently available to FBIS has been prepared by the Chief, [] for inclusion in this memorandum. It also comments on the relevance of this to the construction of the Club by the bureau. See Tab II.

4. Reproduction Facilities

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a. [] stated that the only reproduction equipment at his installation was the Thermofax machine; and that reproduction of all forms, etc. used by his group was done by [] Headquarters. He claimed no knowledge of plans for expanding their reproduction facilities, but added it was possible [] might know future needs of which he himself was not aware.

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b. Assuming quantity distribution of [] material, the only grounds for considering joint use of a remote facility, the following can be stated: (1) Monitors' "filmsies," our raw editorial product, can be reproduced by Thermofax, but because of their crude appearance do not present a very satisfactory medium for quantity dissemination. (2) Quantity reproduction by Thermofax is very time-consuming and costly and courier service would have to be added for FBIS to gain access to the Thermofax. (3) The teletype "hard-copy," the bureau's finished editorial product, is so difficult to reproduce by Thermofax that volume requirements would be prohibitive; it can best be reproduced by use of a reperforator for feeding through a teleprinter, but a small investment in equipment and native clerical help would be required. This setup would be of value only to FBIS and require no administrative coordination [] (4) Preparation of a special product for dissemination to the many area customers who are not connected to the signals network would require additional editorial and clerical staff at the bureau. Since no additional requirements of [] are known, this also would appear to entail no coordination.

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B. []

1. Staff Housing

a. The existence of a general problem is denied by the Bureau Chief, and the attitude is confirmed by all of the staff members

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approached, except one. The latter [] was dissatisfied, but not seriously. Several other staff members had at one time relatively acute housing problems which have since been resolved to their fullest satisfaction. Although one male employee for a brief period some time ago found himself one of five occupants of a hotel room billet, he now has a good accommodation of his own, as does the majority of the staff. Only a few are sharing, and they only with one other person who in each case appears to be an acceptable companion.

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b. [] problem will presumably be settled by action already taken, and a precedent will be thereby created enabling a similar solution of any further staff housing problems which may arise for bachelor personnel, male or female. Although she has been concentrating (unsuccessfully) for some time on renting a private apartment, she indicates preference for the proposed solution which involves obtaining quarters in a fine apartment house recently leased by the Department of State for its personnel. State has indicated its willingness to let FBIS participate on the same basis as its own personnel, and the Chief, [] has requested and received permission from the Chief, FBIS, to negotiate arrangements.

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